

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
SAJ-01 EB-08 OMB-01 NSC-05 /074 W
-----030421 117428 /73

R 021602Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9198
INFO SECDEF WASH DC
JCS WASH DC
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, AWACS, BE
SUBJECT: BELGIAN POSITION ON AWACS

REF: 76 BRUSSELS 12759

SUMMARY: NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES
HAS ISSUED REPORT, DATED FEB. 24, ON THE 1977 NATIONAL DEFENSE
BUDGET. BELGIAN POSITION ON AWACS IS REITERATED. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER PRESENTING DESCRIPTION OF AWACS AND HISTORICAL RESUME
OF PROJECT, REPORT NOTES:

(1) BELGIAN MOD STATED IN DECEMBER 1975 THAT IF AWACS
WERE ADOPTED, BELGIUM WAS PREPARED TO ENSURE THE COMPATIBILITY
OF ITS GROUND-BASED AIR DEFENSE ELECTRONIC INFRASTRUCTURE
WITH THAT OF AWACS; AND

(2) MOD ANNOUNCED IN DECEMBER 1976 THAT BELGIUM INTENDED TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE AWACS OPERATING COSTS BUT RESERVED
ITS POSITION AS REGARDS PARTICIPATION IN THE ACQUISITION COSTS.
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BOTH ELEMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO A GOVERNMENTAL DECISION
AND THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE OBTAINING THE
NECESSARY SUPPLEMENTARY CREDITS. THE CREDITS REQUIRED
WOULD BE:

(A) TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACQUISITION OF AWACS - TWO
TO 2.3 BILLION BF (JUNE 1976 PRICES COMPUTER AT 37 BF

EQUALS ONE DOLLAR) PAYABLE IN TEN YEARS FOR A REAL COST
OF 4 TO 5 BILLION BF.

(B) TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OPERATING COSTS -
140 TO 190 MILLION BF PER YEAR.

2. REPORT MAKES FOLLOWING COMMENT ON AWACS: "AWACS
IS A NEW NEED EXPRESSED BY NATO. IT MUST BE ADDED TO
THE FORCE GOALS WHICH THE ALLIANCE HAS RECOMMENDED.
THESE FORCE GOALS HAVE JUST AS MUCH PRIORITY AS AWACS.
NOW BELGIUM AS REGARDS RESOURCES ALLOCATED TO NATIONAL
DEFENSE AND DESPITE A FOUR PERCENT ANNUAL INCREASE IN
REAL TERMS CAN ONLY ACHIEVE A PART (OF THE FORCE GOALS).
IT IS THUS EVIDENT THAT WITHOUT SUPPLEMENTARY CREDITS,
PARTICIPATION IN THE ACQUISITION COSTS OF AWACS IS NOT
POSSIBLE WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO OTHER HIGH PRIORITY
PROGRAMS AND WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE OPERATIONAL
STATE OF THE NATIONAL ARMED FORCES."

3. COMMENT: GIVEN THE PRESENT STATE OF THE BELGIAN
ECONOMY AND OF THE GOVERNMENT BUDGET DEFICIT (SEE BRUSSELS 1616),
IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT SUPPLEMENTARY CREDITS WILL
BE ALLOCATED FOR AWACS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.RENNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AWACS, AIR DEFENSE, WARNING SYSTEMS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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